Russian Nuclear Edge to Indian Defence

3410. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Russian has agreed to give nuclear edge to Indian defence;

(b) if so. whether India would lease nuclear bombers and a nuclear-propelled submarine from Russia as part of a $ 3 billion package;

(c) whether Indo-US defence Policy Group visited India and had talks with Indian Government for keeping military co-operations between India and America;

(d) if so, whether India had also in agreement with France for supply of submarines to India;

(e) if so. to what extent US. Russia and France have agreed to provide military assistance to India; and

(f) what were the agreements signed with these countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) and (b) No. Sir.

(c) Yes. Sir.

(d) A proposal for construction of submarines by Mazagon Docks Limited in collaboration with a French company has been approved in principle. Necessary agreements for the project are yet to be signed.

(e) and (f) Defence deals and agreements with foreign firms of various countries, including United States, France and Russia, are entered into from time to time keeping in view the requirements of national security. In view of the sensitive nature of the information, it will be in the interest of national security to disclose further details in the matter.

Sino-Indo Relations

3411. SHRI RAJIV SHUKLA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sino-Indo relations were discussed at 5th Asian Security Conference at Delhi, late January;

(b) whether Defence Minister who spoke at the meet described China as having great potential for mutually beneficial economic relations with India;

(c) whether the meet saw hope of improving political relations with China despite the border dispute;

(d) what is the status of the border dispute and how Government hopes to settle it; and

(e) does the Government hope to push economic relations, putting the border dispute in the backburner ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA) : (a) to (e) The 5th Asian Security Conference on "Asian Security and China in the period 2000-2010" was organised by the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses in New Delhi from 27th to 29th January, 2003. India-China relation was not per se included in the theme of discussions at the Conference. However, while delivering the concluding address there, Raksha Mantri had expressed optimism that India and China would arrive at consensus through continuous dialogue and accommodation of competing interests in the near future. He had also observed that China had made good progress on economic front in the last two decades and India might learn a lesson from them on this front.

Although contentious issues like the boundary problem between the two countries are to be settled, the economic relation between them has been showing an upswing.

As regards boundary dispute between India and China, the two sides have been discussing the boundary question based on the institutional framework provided by the two Agreements signed by them in 1993 and 1996 with the objective of seeking a mutually acceptable settlement of the issue.

Use of Dolphins to blow up enemy warships and submarines

3412. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Navy is all set to use dolphins to blow up enemy warships and submarines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has gone into any study before making a maiden attempt in this direction;